

## BOOK NOTICE

*Strange Insects and Their Stories.* By A. Hyatt Verill. 8vo., cloth, 205 pp., jacket and frontispiece in color, 4 full page illus., and 100 text cuts by author. Boston, L. C. Page & Co., 1937. \$2.50.

This is one of the books issued within the "Strange Stories from Nature Series," of which other volumes of similar scope have appeared or are now in course of preparation. In this latest one the author undertakes to deal in a nontechnical way with insects, their life histories and habits, and with especial emphasis on the comparatively little known peculiarities and apparent idiosyncrasies of some of the comparatively well known forms. A general introductory discussion of the whole subject is followed by sections dealing specifically with such topics as insects as man's greatest foes and firmest friends; insect artizans; insect ogres; the life of the locust; boatmen, fishermen and pirates; insect gems; the Smyrna fig wasp in its relation to fig culture; insect bugaboos; some giants of the insect world; brownies of the insect world; how insects play hide and seek; insect undertakers; insects that carry lanterns; some incredible ants; insects used as food; and differences between insects and nearly related forms. There is practical information on findings, collecting, rearing and preserving insects. Only insects appear to have been included which an average person might observe, either in the temperate zone or in the tropics. The author has selected types, rather than species, whose odd habits or unusual characteristics would make their study of more than passing interest to the average reader. Another book already issued within this series by the same writer treats of shells, while others now in preparation will deal similarly with birds, fish, reptiles and fossils. Mr. Verill is also author of several other works on various phases of natural history, notably "The Incas' Treasure House," and "The Deep Sea Hunters."

J. S. W.